

heard from any of them. So when you add this all up, not counting NRDs, we have over fifty thousand people directly affected either by elected positions or by salary positions and so I feel this way. Let's not go in the lifeboat theory. Let's not start pushing people off the raft. Let's keep them all there for one more year and maybe they will understand the injustice of 7%. I have always considered myself to be someone of courage but I am getting a little tired of the courage. I am getting a little tired of bleeding and I know that this body is not ready to repeal the 7% and I know the Governor isn't either but I would say to you, there is only one amendment to adopt. Use 352 for something and that is to allow them to discount their federal dollars they lose and try to raise it locally and I submit to you that local property tax will go up because there are services they can not do without. Otherwise they would not have had them in the first place. So, let's just adopt this amendment and leave 352 like it is, send it to the Governor. He can't very well veto that but he can accept that as being reasonable and I would hope that is what we would do today. But for us to go to 9% or some other figure would merely say to those people there, you better take 9% because if you don't next year you are going to be penalized. So let's live with 7%. Maybe next year there will be a hue and a cry for this body to repeal what I consider to be a very foolish lid and that is a 7% lid. So we will wait one year and see if there is a change of position by those elected and those who suffer in local communities. I ask for the adoption of that amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp. Senator Higgins. Here comes Senator DeCamp. No, there hasn't been any discussion at all yet. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I would like to ask Senator Koch a question for clarification. I want to make sure I know what I am doing here. Senator Koch, are you saying a vote for this amendment will keep the 7% lid unless federal dollars are cut and then say federal dollars cut it 2% so then we would allow them to go up 2%?

SENATOR KOCH: What I am saying, Senator Higgins, we repeal the original bill which was to repeal the 7% and we insert this amendment which says that any receipts from federal sources that they have received by any political subdivision shall be allowed to be raised at a local level since they have lost that money but they can't go above 7% under any conditions. Those federal dollars originally were considered in their operating budgets. Now if you lose a million dollars from federal funds you are out but you still are figuring 7% on those dollars as though they were there. So, we are trying to, when they lose them, we are allowing them